

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1471

ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008

ABATEMENT OF POLLUTION IN THE GANGA

Kumar Shri Shailendra;Murmu Shri Hemlal;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of progress made in the work relating to abatement of pollution in the river Ganga as on date;
- (b) whether any Committee has been constituted/ proposed to be constituted to clean the river;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any voluntary organization has come forward for abatement of pollution in the river;and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) To undertake pollution abatement works in the river Ganga, Ganga Action Plan (GAP), phase – I was launched in 1985, which was declared completed in March, 2000 with the creation of sewage treatment capacity of 869 million litres per day (mld). Subsequently, GAP Phase-II, which included plans besides Ganga for its major tributaries namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, was approved in stages from 1993 onwards. Works under GAP Phase- II are presently under implementation in different States. Pollution abatement works undertaken include interception and diversion work so capture the raw sewage flowing into the river for treatment, installation of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, electric /improved wood crematoria, River front Development etc. Till September, 2008 518 schemes of pollution abatement have been completed with the creation of 925 mld of sewage treatment capacity under GAP Phase- II. With the completion of the pollution abatement works under GAP Phase- II with the completion of the pollution abatement works under GAP phase –I & II, there is improvement in the water quality of Ganga over its pre-GAP quality in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) at major monitoring locations. This is as per the water quality monitoring undertaken by independent reputed institutions like the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL), and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and Indian Toxicological Research Center (ITRC), Lucknow.

(b)& (c) The National River Conservation Authority (NRCA) at the National level provides policy directives for guiding implementation of the National River Plan (NRCP). NRCA assisted by a Steering Committee in the Ministry of Environment & Forests with representatives from the concerned Ministries in the Govt. of India and the State Governments for coordination of the implementation of the Programme.

River Conservation is a mammoth task requiring involvement of all the stakeholders. Urban Water supply and Sanitation is a state subject and it is the responsibility of the State governments/urban local Bodies (ULBs) to plan, design, execute, operate and maintain water supply and sanitation projects including domestic wastewater treatment schemes with State Plan funds. The Central Governments only supplements the efforts of the state Governments in creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal etc. by providing grant for capital works in the identified polluted stretches. There are also other Central programmes in operation under the Union Ministry of Urban Development, namely, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), for supplementing the efforts of the State Governments & ULBs, by provision of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as per guidelines of these programmes. Sewerage & sewage treatment (i.e. domestic wastewater treatment) are among the admissible components under these programmes.

(c)& (e) Sankat Mochan Foundation (SMF), a NGO of Varanasi has submitted a proposal in the form of project Feasibility Report (PFR) for tackling the pollution load generated from Varanasi.

The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been asked to co-ordinate with the SMF for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of 37 mld Sewage Treatment Plant at Ramana in Varanasi as well as to prepare the DPR for tackling pollution from the ghats and adjacent areas of the Varanasi town.